



Poet Populist Election Process Overview



Election Process

- Votes submitted by the public will be compiled and counted by Cambridge Arts Council staff with oversight by the Poet Populist Committee to ensure accuracy and transparency of process
- The votes will then be tallied and the finalist with the most votes will become the new Cambridge Poet Populist
- In case of a tie the committee will make a final decision based on the poet's submitted 500 word statement
- A press release will go out shortly after the votes have been counted announcing the new Poet Populist-Elect
- A public "ceremony" will be held at the Cambridge River Festival's Poetry Tent to usher in the new Poet Populist

Election Follow-up

- Within two weeks of the completed election, the committee will meet with the Populist-elect to discuss and develop a program for the term that is consistent with the city's goals, the strengths and interests of the poet, and available resources
- The committee and poet will meet throughout the term to assess the process, and provide critical feedback based on agreed upon goals. The committee and poet will meet again at the conclusion of the poet's term to determine whether the program goals were met and to consider possible changes to the process
- The committee reserves the right to remove the poet from the position in the case of non-performance of the agreed-upon duties, or at any time the committee determines that the poet is unable or unfit to continue to represent the city of Cambridge as Poet Populist
- If during the course of his/her term the poet resigns or is removed from the position, stipend is subject to forfeit at the discretion of the Committee and the second-place finalist may be invited to complete the term; replacement of the Poet Populist is at the discretion of the committee
- Program Evaluation may include focus group discussions with previous years finalists and appointed Poet Populists